

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming apparatus, comprising:

a primary game having (i) a bonus feature, (ii) a first set of symbols for determining a primary game outcome, and (iii) a primary game award based on said primary game outcome;
and

a bonus indicator separate from and non-identical to said primary game, said bonus indicator (1) having a second set of symbols for awarding said bonus feature of said primary game, ~~to be enabled~~ (ii) activatable by credit wagered in with respect to said primary game, (iii) arranged to operate substantially simultaneously with said primary game, ~~to be of~~ and for approximately the same duration as said primary game, and (iv) arranged to indicate, independent of any outcome of the primary game, whether a player is entitled to said bonus feature of said primary game.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said primary game contains a plurality of reels, each of which is capable of displaying a portion of the first set of symbols and wherein said primary game award is ~~[[won]]~~ awarded when a predetermined combination of the displayed portion of the first set of symbols is achieved.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said bonus indicator is a roulette type wheel.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said bonus indicator is one or more reels.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said primary game contains a plurality of reels, each of which is capable of displaying a portion of the first set of symbols, wherein said primary game award is won when a predetermined combination of the displayed portion of the first set of symbols is achieved, and wherein said bonus indicator is a roulette type wheel.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said primary game contains a plurality of reels, each of which is capable of displaying a portion of the first set of symbols, wherein said primary game award is won when a predetermined combination of the displayed portion of the first set of symbols is achieved, and wherein said bonus indicator is at least one reel one or more reels.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is connected to an overall casino management system which monitors and controls said apparatus.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is linked to one or more other gaming apparatuses to create a bank of hyperlinked gaming apparatuses.

9 – 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method of gaming for use with ~~for playing~~ a gaming machine, the method comprising:

wagering credit in a primary game having a bonus feature;

playing a displaying said primary game having a bonus feature including a portion of a first set of symbols;

determining a primary game award based on the first set of symbols; and
automatically initiating the operation of a separate bonus indicator when credit is wagered in said primary game;

displaying said bonus indicator including a second set of symbols;

awarding said bonus feature based on said second set of symbols;

operating said separate bonus indicator to operate substantially simultaneously with and ~~be non-identical to~~ said primary game;

running said bonus indicator for to be of approximately the same duration as said primary game; and

indicating to indicate, independent of any outcome of the primary game, whether a player is entitled to said bonus feature.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said primary game contains a plurality of reels, each of which is capable of displaying a portion of the first set of symbols and wherein said primary game award is won when a predetermined combination of the displayed portion of the first set of symbols is achieved.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said bonus indicator is a roulette type wheel.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said bonus indicator is one or more reels.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said primary game contains a plurality of reels, each of which is capable of displaying a portion of the first set of symbols, wherein said primary game award is won when a predetermined combination of the displayed portion of the first set of symbols is achieved, and wherein said bonus indicator is a roulette type wheel.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said primary game contains a plurality of reels, each of which is capable of displaying a portion of the first set of symbols, wherein said primary game award is won when a predetermined combination of the displayed portion of the first set of symbols is achieved, and wherein said bonus indicator is at least one reel ~~one or more reels~~.

28. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said gaming machine is connected to an overall casino management system which monitors and controls said gaming machine.

29. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said gaming machine is linked to one or more other gaming machines to create a bank of hyperlinked gaming machines.

30 – 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A gaming device having a primary game for play by a player, the gaming device comprising:

a computer configured to present a primary game outcome of ~~[[the]]~~ a primary game based on a portion of a first set of symbols, and to substantially simultaneously present a bonus indicator to the player, said bonus indicator being enabled by credit wagered ~~[[in]]~~ with respect to said primary game and designating, independent of said outcome of the primary game, ~~at least one of a bonus condition or a non-bonus condition~~ based on a portion of a second set of symbols; and

wherein said primary game ~~has having~~ has a bonus feature ~~for initiation responsive to~~ responsive to ~~[[when]]~~ said bonus indicator designating designates said bonus condition.

50. (Currently Amended) The gaming device of claim 49 wherein said computer is configured to display a second game to the player ~~as said bonus indicator and to issue a bonus to the player~~ when said bonus indicator designates said bonus condition.

51. (Currently Amended) A gaming apparatus, comprising:

a display;

a primary game having a bonus feature, said primary game configured to operate to produce at ~~[[a]]~~ said display winning and losing primary game outcomes; and

a bonus indicator for presenting a bonus condition independent of said primary game outcome, and being (i) enabled by credit wagered in said primary game, (ii) arranged to operate substantially simultaneously with said primary game, said bonus indicator (iii) displayed separately from said primary game outcome at said display, and (iv) randomly selected between enabling and not enabling said bonus feature based on said presented bonus condition independent of said primary game outcome.